

THE BELCHAMP RURAL DISTRICT,

IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF ESSEX.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH for 1909.

(Pursuant to the Regulations of the Local Government Board)

Population (1881) 6200 ; (1891) 5722 ; (1901) 4847. Number of parishes, 17.
Acreage, 26548. Persons per acre, 0.18.

Number of Inhabited Houses, 1213. Average number of persons per house, 4.0.

Geological formation, chalk, covered on the higher ground with boulder clay, and in the valleys with drift sand and gravel or brick earth.

The following vital statistics are compiled from the returns made by the Registrars in the District :—

I. BIRTHS. There were **91** births registered during the year, equivalent to a birth-rate of **18.8** per 1000 of the population. The births and birth-rates in this District during the previous seven years were :—

	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.
Births	86	95	85	89	88	80	90	91
Birth-rate...	17.7	19.6	17.5	18.3	18.1	16.5	18.6	18.8

The Birth-rate for 1909 in Rural England and Wales was 25.6.

II. DEATHS. The number of deaths from all causes registered in the District was **53**, to which 10 deaths belonging to the District occurring in the Workhouse, and St. Leonard's Hospital, Sudbury, have to be added, making the total deaths **63**, equivalent to a death-rate of **13.0** per 1000 of the population. The deaths and death-rates during the previous seven years were :—

	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.
Deaths registered.....	63	66	69	61	52	61	56	53
Deaths belonging to the District	69	70	77	68	58	64	68	63
Death-rate... ..	14.2	14.4	15.8	14.0	11.9	13.2	14.0	13.0

The Death-rate for 1909 in Rural England and Wales was 13.6.

The following table shows the relative age mortality :—

Deaths—Under 1 year. 3	1 to 5 years. 1	5 to 15 years. 3	15 to 25 years. 2	25 to 65 years. 20	over 65 years. 34
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Among the 34 deaths over 65 years, were 11 over the age of 80 years.

III. *Infantile Mortality.* There were 3 deaths of infants under one year of age, equivalent to a death-rate of 33.0 per 1000 of births registered. One was a premature birth.

The infantile deaths and death-rates for the previous seven years were as follows :—

	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.
Deaths of infants under one year...	5	11	13	8	3	5	7	3
Rate per 1000 of births registered	61.3	115.7	152.9	89.8	34.1	62.5	77.7	33.0

The Infant Mortality for 1909 in Rural England and Wales was 98.

Deaths from Zymotic Diseases. None.

Deaths from Tuberculosis. These numbered 7, of which 5 were pulmonary. Under the Public Health (Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1908, two cases of phthisis were notified during the year, both in January. The cases when visited were found to be in the last stage ; they died early in the year. In all the cases of death from pulmonary tuberculosis, notification thereof was received from the Registrar of the district, so that immediately after the funeral the house, clothes, &c., were disinfected and cleansed.

Deaths from other causes. These include—from cancer 5, bronchitis and pneumonia 3, and heart diseases 5.

Infectious Diseases Notification. There were 17 notifications received during the year, viz., scarlet fever 13, diphtheria 2, erysipelas 2. The record for the previous seven years was as follows :—

	Smallpox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria and Croup.	Typhoid Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Erysipelas.	Total cases.	Per Thousand Population.
1902	0	4	4	1	0	3 ch. pox.	9 21	4.3
1903	0	1	0	0	0	5	6	1.2
1904	0	11	1 croup	1	1	3	17	3.5
1905	0	57	0	1	0	3	61	12.5
1906	0	17	0	0	0	0	17	3.5
1907	0	5	0	0	0	1	6	1.2
1908	0	13	3	0	0	1	17	3.5
1909	0	13	2	0	0	2	17	3.5

The following are particulars of the occurrence of Zymotic diseases during the year :—

Scarlet Fever. This disease occurred only in the parish of Belchamp St. Pauls. The infection was in some cases traceable to the close connection with two neighbouring parishes outside the district, where the disease was prevalent. Thirteen cases were notified, mostly school children, and affected 7 families; all were of a mild type and recovered. Isolation was carried out as strictly as possible, and the houses disinfected in due course. In one case it was necessary to have some of the bedding destroyed.

Diphtheria. The two cases which were notified both occurred in the parish of Pentlow. They had no connection with each other. One was an imported case, being that of a visitor. The other was that of a boy in a farm house. Inspection failed to find any sanitary defects on the premises, except that eight cats were kept, and one of these had been ill and coughing. Antitoxin was supplied and used in both cases, and they recovered.

Influenza. During the early spring severe colds were very prevalent among the school children, so much so, that in the parish of Foxearth the school was closed for a fortnight, and in the parish of Borley for a week.

SCHOOLS. The sanitary condition of the offices and conveniences, in the 14 elementary schools, has been satisfactorily maintained. There is no water supply on the premises of nine of the schools, the water is brought daily in a pail from the nearest supply, which is generally convenient, and dipping cups used.

The action taken to prevent the spread of infectious diseases in schools is, on receiving notification of such, to exclude all children from infected houses until disinfected. In cases of scarlet fever being notified, to visit the school and examine all children who, if present, have been lately absent, sometimes it is necessary to examine every child in the school, for any trace of desquamation. With respect to measles, as this disease is generally among infants, the elder children who have already had measles are not excluded from school. Closure is only advised when the infectious disease has become very prevalent among the children.

WATER SUPPLY. The rainfall as registered in Sudbury was 26.1 inches, quite 3 inches above the average, so that the water supply in wells and ponds was amply maintained. Five new private wells were sunk, three of which were for new houses. The water on analysis was found to be pure in each case; one certificate was granted, the others not yet applied for. Twelve samples of water were taken for analysis, five of which were found to be impure; three of these related to one well which has now been rendered pure, the other two are wells still unused.

HOUSES. Only two new houses were erected during the year, one being a new rectory at Lamarsh, the plans of which were presented to and passed by the Council. One case of overcrowding was abated. The house accommodation for the working classes is generally good, though in most parishes there are some old cottages requiring frequent repairs. Six were closed and five demolished during the year. As a rule all the houses have sufficient open space, with garden or allotment ground. No action has required to be taken under the Housing of the Working Classes Act.

SEWERS AND DRAINS. The privy cesspools and pail system is the only mode of dealing with excremental sewage, which is disposed of on garden or allotment ground. Sewers and drains are only used in the district for slop or storm water. No new sewers were made during the year; new or improved drains were laid down in 18 instances where required. The chemical precipitation process which treats the trade effluent from the Foxearth Brewery continues to work satisfactorily; the ditch connected with same requires cleaning of vegetation, &c., twice a year.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS. There are eight factories in the district, viz., 5 flour mills, 2 breweries, and 1 builder's workshop. There are 33 workshops, including 17 bakehouses. All have undergone inspection, and no defects were found. No complaints were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS. Number three, which are registered in accordance with the 1885 order, and are regularly inspected. One of these sends all the milk to London, having it passed through strainer and refrigerator. The milk supply of the district is mainly derived from farmers and others, who keep two or three cows and allow their surplus milk to be procured by their workpeople and neighbours. Some of these have been inspected, and in one case greater attention to cleanliness was required, and promised to be carried out.

GENERAL SANITATION. Systematic inspections have been made in each parish during the year, as well as frequent special inspections. There are only two District and Maternity Nurses for three parishes; more are very much required. Not only do these nurses render valuable hygienic aid, but the practical instructions they give to mothers on the proper care and feeding of infants does much to reduce the infantile death rate, and so must to some extent counterbalance the decline in the birth rate. It is to be hoped that the County Council will see their way to assist in the support of these Nurses in rural parishes. They would prove of great help to the School Medical Officer in various ways, particularly in looking after neglected children. During the year we had to call in the help of the Inspector of Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children, to deal with a family of neglected children, a case in which a District Nurse would have been invaluable.

No legal proceedings were necessary this year.

Annexed is a tabular statement, relative to the sanitary work done in the 17 parishes in the District.

Tabular statements, according to the forms supplied by the Local Government Board, of sickness and mortality within the districts, are appended to the official reports.

J. SINCLAIR HOLDEN, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1909.

		Alphamstone.	Belchampt Otten.	Belchampt St. Pauls.	Belchampt Walter.	Borley.	Bulmer.	Bures Hamlet.	Foxearth.	Gestingthorpe.	Great Henny.	Little Henny.	Lamarsh.	Liston.	Middleton	Pentlow.	Twinstead.	Wickham St. Pauls.	TOTAL
General Sanitation.	Complaints received	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	18
	Nuisances detected	4	4	13	7	4	8	7	10	5	3	1	5	2	3	7	2	3	88
	Nuisances abated without notice	3	3	9	5	1	6	5	7	3	3	...	4	2	3	5	2	1	62
	Nuisances abated after notice	1	1	4	2	3	2	2	1	2	...	1	1	...	1	2	...	2	25
	Notices served	1	1	4	2	3	2	2	1	2	...	1	1	...	1	2	...	2	25
	Premises inspected	13	11	30	22	9	47	22	26	23	12	4	17	8	12	21	15	19	311
	Houses disinfected	1	...	5	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	12
	Houses closed	1	...	2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	6
	Houses demolished	1	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	5
	Houses newly erected or re-built	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	2
	Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Water supply certificates granted	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Water supply certificates deferred	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	2
	Water samples taken for analysis	...	...	2	...	...	5	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	1	1	12
	Wells sunk	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	1	4
	Wells cleansed and repaired	...	...	2	1	1	...	...	1	1	1	...	1	2	...	...	...	...	10
	Wells closed	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
	Privies, new	...	2	2	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	3	...	1	...	...	...	12
	Privies improved	1	3	5	2	1	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	2	3	1	2	23
	Drains, new and improved	1	...	2	2	1	...	1	4	2	1	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	18
	Ditches cleansed	1	...	2	1	...	5	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	14
	Animals improperly kept	...	1	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	6
Factory & Workshop Act, 1901.	Factories inspected	...	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	8
	Workshops inspected (including 17 bakehouses)	1	1	3	3	1	4	5	2	3	3	...	...	1	3	...	1	2	33
	Offensive trades	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
	Slaughter Houses inspected	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
	Offensive accumulations	...	2	1	2	2	2	2	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	2	...	...	15
	Dairies and cow sheds inspected	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	4

S. ALLPRESS,
Inspector of Nuisances.

